



RESPONSIBLE REFORM FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS DEMOCRATS . SENATE . GOV / REFORM

Arkansas: The Cost of Inaction

Arkansas Families Suffer

Insurance premiums skyrocket

- ✓ In 1997, family health insurance purchased through an employer cost \$4,539.
- ✓ In 2006, the same family health insurance cost \$9,928.
- ✓ By 2016, the same insurance is projected to cost \$21,715, a 119 percent increase over 2006, which will consume 48.4 percent of projected Arkansas median family income.

More uninsured Arkansans

- ✓ Every day, 80 Arkansans lose their health insurance.
- ✓ During the last two years, 836,000 Arkansans under age 65 went without health insurance for some time, which is 34 percent of the under 65 population.
- ✓ In 2007, 485,849 Arkansans under age 65 were uninsured for the entire year, which is 19.9 percent of the under 65 population.

Arkansans pay higher premiums due to the uninsured

- ✓ Arkansas families pay a “hidden tax” of \$1,500 on their health insurance premiums due to the unpaid costs of care for the uninsured.

Fewer choices due to consolidated market

- ✓ The two largest health insurance companies in Nevada have a combined market share of 81 percent.

Arkansas Businesses Suffer

Fewer Arkansans have health coverage at work

- ✓ In 2002, 56.9 percent of Arkansans under age 65 had employer-sponsored health insurance.
- ✓ In 2007, 53.5 percent of Arkansans had coverage through their employer.

Fewer Arkansas small businesses offer health coverage

- ✓ In 2000, 32.0 percent of small businesses were able to offer health insurance coverage to their employees.
- ✓ In 2006, 29.3 percent of small businesses offered health benefits.

Arkansas Economy Suffers

Health care spending climbs

- ✓ In 2004, Arkansas spent \$13.4 billion on health care.
- ✓ This spending level represents \$4,863 per capita, and is 15.4 percent of the Gross State Product.

Lost economic output of the uninsured due to shorter lives and poorer health

- ✓ This year, the Arkansas economy will lose \$1.2 billion - \$2.4 billion due to the shorter lives and poorer health of the uninsured.